

The Spirit of Democracy.

"PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES, AND MEN THAT WILL CARRY THOSE PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES INTO EFFECT."

BY JAMES R. MORRIS.

WOODSFIELD, OHIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1844.

VOLUME I. NUMBER 26.

THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY

IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY J. R. MORRIS.

TERMS.—\$1.50 per annum in advance; \$2.00 if paid within six months; \$2.50 if paid within the year, and \$3.00 if payment be delayed until after the expiration of the year.

No paper will be discontinued, except at the option of the editor, until all arrears are paid.

All communications sent by mail must be post-paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at the usual rates.

POETRY.

From the New Monthly Magazine.

THE POLKA.

OR THE BOHEMIAN GIRL TO HER LOVER.

The following graphic description of the famous "Polka Dance" has recently been given to the world by the celebrated Frederika Bremer, the Edgeworth and Austin of Sweden, in a work entitled "Stift and Peace," of which a translation has appeared from the pen of a kindred writer, the accomplished Mary Howitt. This dance, which is equally popular in Bohemia, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, &c., is, says Miss Bremer, "highly characteristic; it paints the northern inhabitants' highest joy in life; it is the Berserker gladness in the dance. Supported upon the arm of the woman, the man throws himself high in the air; then catches her in his arms, and swings round with her in wild circles; then they separate, then they unite again, and whirl again round, as it were in superabundance of life and delight. The measure is determined, bold, and full of life. It is a dance of intoxication, in which people for the moment release themselves from every care, every burden and oppression of existence!"

Dear youth, from the forest and mountain,
Oh, come, 'neath the wild cherry tree—
My flax thread I've washed in the fountain,
Come, love, dance the Polka with me!
Like the waves of the Elbe madly bounding,
Let not the dark Woodcock fright,
The Mandoline long has been sounding,
Like Vitas, we'll dance through the night!

Dear youth, from the forest and mountain,
Oh, come, 'neath the wild cherry tree—
My flax thread I've washed in the fountain,
Come, love, dance the Polka with me!
With the garrets you gave to adorn me,
Those gems in your Giant's Glen found,
That our Burgave himself should not scorn me,
By my gold headdress I'm crown'd!

Like wine that glad dance will inspire me,
With transport 'twill thrill every vein;
Did I dance through the night 'twould not tire me,
I would dance it at morning again!
What rapture, when heart to heart joining—
In thine eyes, love, as onward we go,
All its magical circles entwining,
I must gaze, or I giddy should grow!

Then come from the forest and mountain,
Oh, come, 'neath the wild cherry tree—
My flax thread I've washed in the fountain,
Come, love, dance the Polka with me!
REV. DR. BEECHER.

This gentleman, it seems, feels bound to carry out his profession—if so, he is very unlike many others, of like position in society, of whom we have heard.—*Statesman.*

From the Utica Observer.

DUELLING.

The Rev. Dr. Beecher published not long since a pungent sermon, in which he took occasion to denounce, in the severest terms, the impropriety of supporting duellists for high and responsible offices. The following is an extract from the discourse referred to:

"Permit me now, my friends, to ask you solemnly, will you any longer persist in your attachment for Duellists? Will you any longer either deliberately or falsely, vote for them? Will you renounce allegiance to your Maker; cast the bible behind your back? Will you find in men void of the fear of God and destitute of moral principles?—Will you trust your life to MURDERERS and liberty to DESPOTS?"

The whigs have fancied that notwithstanding this clerical fulmination, the Dr. would be found among the friends of Mr. Clay. A correspondent of the Boston Morning Chronicle, has recently had an interview with him, and in the course of their conversation the Dr. remarked:

"I MEANT IT FOR EVERY WRETCH WHO IS WILLING TO REDDEN HIS HANDS IN HIS BROTHER'S BLOOD," and added, "I AM NOT THE MAN TO NULLIFY MY OWN INSTRUCTIONS. I SHALL MAINTAIN THEM BY MY PRACTICE."

THE SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY.

AUGUST 23, 1844.

For the Spirit of Democracy.

Mr. Editor:—In compliance with the well known wishes of the people of this county, I last winter, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to provide for calling a convention to amend the third article of our constitution. The design was to reform our Supreme Court, a tribunal the least fitted to our circumstances, which ingenuitly could devise. But the idea was industriously profligated by John M. Gallagher and some of his associates, that the people could not call a convention with limited powers, such as to reform the Supreme Court, for instance, but that a convention whether so intended by the people or not, would instantly be clothed with power to alter or abolish the whole constitution. This was the readiest method of defeating the bill, as no one wished to meddle with the whole constitution, but only to amend the judiciary system, so far as relates to the Supreme Court.

The following argument was delivered, in opposition to this insane notion. How far I succeeded in the eye of reason, is cheerfully left for the decision of my fellow-citizens.

EDWARD ARCHBOLD.

Woodsfield August 12, 1844.

REMARKS OF MR. ARCHBOLD.

In committee of the whole, on Saturday the 14th January, the question being on the motion of Mr. Gallagher, of Clark, to strike out the words "third article" wherever they occur in the first, second, and third sections of the bill, by which means the bill, if passed, would provide for a Convention with general powers.

Mr. ARCHBOLD rose and said: Mr. CHAIRMAN:—If it is admitted that the people have a right to revise, amend, or alter their whole constitution, why may they not revise, amend, or alter a part? Does not the whole consist of parts? If we suppose the constitution divided into eight parts, will gentlemen contend that the people cannot remodel one part without changing the whole? That they cannot repair one pillar of their temple, without tearing down the whole structure? It is readily granted that the powers of a convention would be absolute and plenary on the subject committed to them, but are the people necessarily compelled to commit every interest, however dear, however sacred, to any body of delegates, whatsoever? However high and transcendent the powers of a convention may be, that body will consist of mere agents, delegates, and representatives of the people. May not the people prescribe the boundaries of delegated power? May they not say to any body of agents and ministers whatsoever, "this subject we commit to your mature and calm consideration, and this we deny to your deliberations?" In other words, cannot the people make a special letter of attorney? Can they not create a special minister with plenipotentiary authority on the subject committed to his care? If they cannot, what becomes of their complete sovereignty? He might give a special letter of attorney to another person to sell a horse or convey a piece of land, or he might give him a general letter, authorizing him to conduct and manage all his affairs, to oversee all his concerns. And what would become of his control over his own property if he could not make a letter of attorney of the former kind? Or if every special letter which he did make must necessarily be construed into a general one? And if he had given authority by letter of attorney to an individual, to convey a tract of land, who would undertake by virtue of it, to exercise general superintendence over all his affairs, would he not say "you are a usurper and intruder, and I do not thank you for your officiousness?" Is not the power of the people sovereign, absolute, uncontrollable? And who shall prescribe boundaries to sovereign, absolute, uncontrollable power? Yet gentlemen, though forced to admit the sovereignty, absolute, uncontrollable power of the people, deny them the power of creating a body of special agents. The people have unlimited despotic power on all subjects, but no power on one subject unconnected with the rest! They have unlimited, despotic power, but they cannot make a special letter of attorney!

The argument in behalf of the people's power, seemed so plain, so unanswerable, so invincible that he would suppose there could be but one opinion about it, in the minds of men who advanced to the investigation without prejudice, and without bias; yet he had no hopes of convincing gentlemen who had espoused the other side of the question, however hastily. The opinion which disqualifies the people has the advantage of color, of surface, of appearance, and above all, of absurdity and paradox. A man may abandon his own offspring, but a logician will never abandon his paradox. The pride of the understanding more or less inherent in all men, forbids such a surrender. The man who is fully persuaded of the inability of a witch to cross the broomstick which lays at his door will never believe that she can bona fide, cross a broomstick. It might be very convenient for the old lady to possess the power in question, and it is very difficult to assign any reason for her disability; but so it is, the disability exists, and it would be heresy, heterodoxy and infidelity to deny it. So it might be extremely necessary and convenient for the people to be able to create a convention, with ample and plenary powers over one branch of their constitution, without submitting the whole instrument to their discretion; but to assert that the people have such power, is as heterodox and radical, as it would be in the eyes of the good musk-meat to deny the truth of the almanac. Other gentlemen admit that the sovereign people may clothe a convention with full power over one article of the constitution, or with full powers over the whole instrument; but that the General Assembly can take no steps to facilitate the action of their will. This opinion seems more liberal in theory than the former, but it is only in theory. How can the people act on any subject, except through their constituted organization? Does any man suppose that two million of people inhabiting a surface of more than forty thousand square miles, can ever assemble en masse to consult of their affairs, and take resolutions pertaining to their common welfare? He was not disposed to deny to the people in their individual elementary capacity, the right of revolution, a right never to be abandoned, but never to be exercised except in extreme cases; but for all practical purposes, the man who denies to the people, the power to act on any given subject through their constituted organs, denies them the power to act at all. The people cannot meet and consult en masse, then if they cannot meet and consult through their authorized agents and representatives, they cannot meet and consult at all. And this is precisely the situation of helplessness and destitution to which the arguments of gentlemen would reduce them.

Having convinced themselves, and attempted to convince others, that the people's power to create a body of special agents with plenary powers on one subject, but limited to that subject, labors under palsy, they proceed to draw the most frightful pictures of the anarchy, the confusion, the ruin, that are to rush in as a flood-tide, if we once open the gates, by calling a convention clothed with general powers to amend our whole Constitution. He had no such distrust of the people. The evils for which we propose to provide a remedy are admitted by all to be urgent in the highest degree. The eight new President Judges, and the four chancellors of the gentlemen from Preble, and his proposition to destroy the appellate powers of the Supreme Court, and to lop off one of the Associate Judges of the Common Pleas, discover, in glaring light, his sense of the evils under which we labor.

Would the gentleman propose to add so many new cog-wheels and trundle-heads, if our mill would even grind tolerably? And he would add, that complex and intricate machinery is apt to be bungling and inefficient; and predicted that such would be the case with the gentleman's, if put in operation. To distrust the capacity of the people, safely to amend their Constitution, is to distrust their capacity for self-government; is to despair of the republic. The people would be stimulated by the strongest motives that ever influenced the human breast, by their own interests, and the interests of the latest posterity, to the exercise of their highest mental and moral faculties. The noblest sons of the commonwealth, the men most distinguished for high, mental, and moral attainments, would be willing to accept seats in that convention; in one word, the effort to amend the Constitution would concentrate the highest mental and moral energies of the State, and he had no fears for the result. Before the awakened majesty of the people, demagogues would start back appalled and rebuked. It could not breathe in the atmosphere of purity, which the awakened intelligence and moral feeling of this great community would create. Although gentlemen have made the ghosts of anarchy, and confusion, and turbulence, and agrarianism, stalk mournfully across the stage before our eyes, it was easy to perceive that the threatening apparitions were merely hobgoblins, raw-head-and-bloody-bones, which ought to frighten none but children.

Political topics had been unnecessarily dragged into this discussion. It was not necessarily a party question, and he would not be the first man to make it so. Hever a question demanded calm and mature consideration, it was a question concerning the amendment of the organic law. They were bound, at their peril, by the highest and weightiest motives that could influence the human breast: Kindred, country, friends, and above all by their endearing paternal connection with all posterity, to the highest exercise of their intellects, and the subjugation of their passions. They were legislating not for the present generation alone, but for the millions of men who were soon to tread the soil of this great State. Yes, and in some respects for the unborn millions who were soon to inhabit our mighty continent; for our example might tell upon the destinies of other States of this confederacy. It was a noble conception of Fisher Ames, that an "American legislator ought to consider himself the patriarch of half mankind." Let the Diets and Juntas of the little petty States of Europe, engage in faction, cabal and intrigue. They had no such stakes involved as we had; their restricted territory and limited population afforded none such. For himself he pretended not to be exempt from the ordinary frailties and imperfections of human nature, and he supposed no man on this floor pretended to such exemption. But he had, at a former period, taken occasion to exhort his compatriots here, to set up a high standard of legislative purity.

stituted organization? Does any man suppose that two million of people inhabiting a surface of more than forty thousand square miles, can ever assemble en masse to consult of their affairs, and take resolutions pertaining to their common welfare? He was not disposed to deny to the people in their individual elementary capacity, the right of revolution, a right never to be abandoned, but never to be exercised except in extreme cases; but for all practical purposes, the man who denies to the people, the power to act on any given subject through their constituted organs, denies them the power to act at all. The people cannot meet and consult en masse, then if they cannot meet and consult through their authorized agents and representatives, they cannot meet and consult at all. And this is precisely the situation of helplessness and destitution to which the arguments of gentlemen would reduce them.

Having convinced themselves, and attempted to convince others, that the people's power to create a body of special agents with plenary powers on one subject, but limited to that subject, labors under palsy, they proceed to draw the most frightful pictures of the anarchy, the confusion, the ruin, that are to rush in as a flood-tide, if we once open the gates, by calling a convention clothed with general powers to amend our whole Constitution. He had no such distrust of the people. The evils for which we propose to provide a remedy are admitted by all to be urgent in the highest degree. The eight new President Judges, and the four chancellors of the gentlemen from Preble, and his proposition to destroy the appellate powers of the Supreme Court, and to lop off one of the Associate Judges of the Common Pleas, discover, in glaring light, his sense of the evils under which we labor.

Would the gentleman propose to add so many new cog-wheels and trundle-heads, if our mill would even grind tolerably? And he would add, that complex and intricate machinery is apt to be bungling and inefficient; and predicted that such would be the case with the gentleman's, if put in operation. To distrust the capacity of the people, safely to amend their Constitution, is to distrust their capacity for self-government; is to despair of the republic. The people would be stimulated by the strongest motives that ever influenced the human breast, by their own interests, and the interests of the latest posterity, to the exercise of their highest mental and moral faculties. The noblest sons of the commonwealth, the men most distinguished for high, mental, and moral attainments, would be willing to accept seats in that convention; in one word, the effort to amend the Constitution would concentrate the highest mental and moral energies of the State, and he had no fears for the result. Before the awakened majesty of the people, demagogues would start back appalled and rebuked. It could not breathe in the atmosphere of purity, which the awakened intelligence and moral feeling of this great community would create. Although gentlemen have made the ghosts of anarchy, and confusion, and turbulence, and agrarianism, stalk mournfully across the stage before our eyes, it was easy to perceive that the threatening apparitions were merely hobgoblins, raw-head-and-bloody-bones, which ought to frighten none but children.

Political topics had been unnecessarily dragged into this discussion. It was not necessarily a party question, and he would not be the first man to make it so. Hever a question demanded calm and mature consideration, it was a question concerning the amendment of the organic law. They were bound, at their peril, by the highest and weightiest motives that could influence the human breast: Kindred, country, friends, and above all by their endearing paternal connection with all posterity, to the highest exercise of their intellects, and the subjugation of their passions. They were legislating not for the present generation alone, but for the millions of men who were soon to tread the soil of this great State. Yes, and in some respects for the unborn millions who were soon to inhabit our mighty continent; for our example might tell upon the destinies of other States of this confederacy. It was a noble conception of Fisher Ames, that an "American legislator ought to consider himself the patriarch of half mankind." Let the Diets and Juntas of the little petty States of Europe, engage in faction, cabal and intrigue. They had no such stakes involved as we had; their restricted territory and limited population afforded none such. For himself he pretended not to be exempt from the ordinary frailties and imperfections of human nature, and he supposed no man on this floor pretended to such exemption. But he had, at a former period, taken occasion to exhort his compatriots here, to set up a high standard of legislative purity.

In the words of a celebrated author, he would remark, that "the highest praise ever bestowed on a statesman, was that all his aims were his country's, his God's and Heaven's;" and would add, that a legislative assembly of this mighty Commonwealth engaged in a petty political scramble, in the little intrigues and partizan conflicts of the day, must, in the eye of reason, resemble a giant playing with a rag-doll.

The following is a copy of the bill offered by Mr. Archbold, which was yesterday lost in the House:

A BILL,

To provide for taking the sense of the qualified electors of this State as to the propriety of holding a convention to amend the 3d article of the constitution of this State.

Whereas, by the existing constitution of this State, the number of judges of the supreme court cannot exceed four, who are constitutionally bound to hold a court in every county in the State once in each year, two being necessary to constitute a quorum, an amount of labor which they are inadequate to perform, by means of which, justice is greatly delayed, imperfectly administered, and its maintenance rendered enormously costly; the courts being continually obliged, for want of time, to continue cases against their own will and against the wishes of all parties concerned; an inconvenience which has arisen from our great and unprecedented

ed increase in wealth and population, but which is not the less severely felt on that account; and whereas, the people of this State are entitled to speedy, cheap and effectual justice, which the present judiciary system is inadequate to afford, being as little suited to their circumstances as the tiny garments of a child to the limbs of the full grown man, and, whereas, the people ought to have the power, by their authorized agents in the general assembly, to increase the judiciary force as the exigencies of the case may demand; therefore,

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That it shall be the duty of the judges and clerks of election, in every election district in this State, to open a poll on the second Tuesday in October next, and take the votes of the qualified electors for or against a convention to amend the third article of the constitution of this State.

SEC. 2. That the columns of the poll book, containing the votes for and against a convention to amend the third article of the constitution, shall be in the following form as nearly as may be.

Convention.	Number of votes.
No convention.	Number of votes.

SEC. 3. That every ticket found in the ballot box, with the word convention, written or printed thereon, shall be deemed and taken to be a vote in favor of calling a convention to amend the third article of the constitution of this State, and that every ticket found in the ballot box with the words no convention, written or printed thereon, shall be deemed and taken to be a vote against the calling of such convention.

SEC. 4. That the votes for and against a convention shall be taken at the same time and in the same manner, in all respects, and contained in the same poll books, as the votes for members of Congress and State and county officers.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the clerks of the court of common pleas, in every county in this State, to forward to Columbus, abstracts of all the votes taken in their respective counties, in compliance with this act, at the same time and in the same manner, and directed to the same persons as by the law, as it now stands, it is their duty to forward the votes for Governor.

SEC. 6. That if any judge or clerk of any election shall neglect or refuse to perform any duty enjoined upon him by this act, and being thereof convicted, by indictment, he shall be fined in any sum not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars; and if any clerk of the court of common pleas shall fail or refuse to perform any duty enjoined upon him by this act, and being thereof convicted, by indictment, he shall be fined in any sum not less than two hundred nor more than five hundred dollars.

The following is the vote upon the indefinite postponement of the above bill:

YEAS—Messrs. Alexander, Atherton, Brend, Bryson, Downing, Duncan, Fisher, Foot, Glines, Gunckel, Harsh, Harvey, Hawkins, Johns, Johnson, Kaler, Kiefer, Kellogg, Martin, of Fayette, Martin of Columbiana, McClary, McMaken, Means, Morse, McBeth, McFarland, McIlrath, McMillan, Noble, Parsons, Riley, Shane, Sharp, Snyder, Wakefield, White of Licking, Vanmeter, and Speaker—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Archbold, Bennett, Carle, Cassidy, Clark, Craighill, Carey, Claypool, Coombs, Crum, Dunn, Ewing, Filson, Green, Guiberson, Hetrich, Lawrence, Medbury, Myers, Manning, Parnely, Piels, Roudelush, Sargent, Smart, Smith, Waggoner, Warner, White of Brown, and Wilcox—30.

TABLE.

Showing the total number of members of the House of Representatives of the United States by the different ratios since the adoption of the Constitution.

Year.	Ratio.	Members.
1793	Fixed by the Constitution	65
1793	33,000	105
1803	33,000	141
1813	35,000	181
1823	40,000	121
1833	17,700	243
1843	70,680	223

A CHARITABLE PROPOSITION.

The True Democrat proposes "to raise a fund sufficient to cover the amount of the bond given by Mr. Clay to the Mayor of Washington City, for his good behavior—the amount to be deposited with Joe Galois or John M. Botts—that all fears of "that bond" being thus removed, Mr. Clay may be free to fling any man woman or child in the country—that his friends may have no reason to say, after the election, that the hands of their candidate were "tied up," and that consequently the election was unfair.

The following toast was given on the 4th of July, at a democratic celebration in Berks county, Pennsylvania:

By George Ely: If a man cheats me once, he is a knave; if he cheats me twice, I am a fool and as in 1840, I was cheated about those "two dollars a day and roast beef," and the whigs were knaves, so in 1844, I would be a fool if I were cheated again. Hurrah, then, for Polk, Dallas, and Muhlenberg.

A fleshh Act.—The public well at Springfield Illinois, was poisoned on Monday night last, by the introduction into the pump of a poisonous compound. The fact was discovered before any person was seriously affected by it, although some 150 persons were working near the well, and using water from it. The mayor has offered a reward of \$100 for the perpetrators of the outrage.—*Balt. Sun.*

Nothing sets so wide a mark between a vulgar and a noble soul, as the respect and reverential love of womankind. A man who is always sneering at woman, is generally a coarse profligate or a coarse bigot.

A GLANCE AT TEXAS.

BEING A BRIEF SKETCH OF HER HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, POPULATION, CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, AND EXTENT OF TERRITORY; TO WHICH ARE ADDED, A REVIEW OF THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS TO THE UNITED STATES, AND A STATEMENT OF THE REASONS IN FAVOR OF THE SAME.

BY THOMAS J. MORGAN.

[Continued.]

Scarcely a hostile foot has pressed the soil of Texas since the memorable 21st of April, 1836.—Yet Mexico still threatens the subjugation of that republic, and although her menaces are no more to be heeded than the idle wind, they have nevertheless the inevitable tendency of retarding her onward march to greatness. In the present state of uncertainty, property will not command one-fourth its value,—capitalists are unwilling to make investments in a country whose independence is not acknowledged by the parent government; and heads of families, desirous of removing thither, are deterred by the reflection that possibly their helpless offspring may become victims of the worse than savage barbarity of the treacherous Mexican. Their fears and apprehensions are all illusory; but they exist, and existing, obstruct the general prosperity no less than if founded in reality. Col. Benton justly observes, that "Nothing is so disastrous to Texas as the kind of war which has prevailed for some years. It destroys her resources—repulses emigration—sinks the value of property at home, and rates her credit abroad at five cents and ten cents on the dollar. This is what depresses and exhausts her. A fight is nothing. An invasion would be her triumph and her glory."

Had she consulted her own pecuniary interests merely, Texas would have sought an alliance with Great Britain rather than annexation to the United States. No one conversant with the subject can doubt the truth of this proposition. But the land of the single star has shown that whilst she values riches, she prizes republicanism still more highly. She has proven that her attachment to our Union outweighs all other considerations—and if, at some future period her soil shall be made the lodgment for British soldiery destined to again scatter fire and wave the sword upon our western frontier, or to once more march to the magnificent city of the south-west, and there with the counterblast of "beauty and booty," crimson the Mississippi with the blood of our people—the citizens of Texas can well exclaim, "Our hands are clear of it!"

SHALL WE REJECT THE OFFER OF TEXAS. How strange the necessity of propounding such an inquiry? We have offered Mexico millions for Texas, and our propositions have been rejected. Texas is now an independent nation, and voluntarily tenders to the Union her territory as a gift, and yet wonderful to relate, persons are to be found who are unwilling to receive it.

The principal arguments urged against the annexation of Texas, shall be briefly examined—the chief of which is, with us in the North, SLAVERY, AND THE POWER OF THE SOUTH.

The institution of slavery was bequeathed to us by Great Britain. The insatiable avarice which ever distinguished that government, dragged from their African homes the forefathers of the present negro race in the United States. It was a monstrous sin, the commission of which, and countless millions of others, that bloodstained land will one day expiate in bitterness of woe.

But slavery is in our land, and the only question now is, will the annexation of Texas increase the number of negroes held in bondage?

Suppose, for example, there are now three millions of slaves in the United States and Texas.—Will the union of these two countries increase that number? If so, pray how? If ten thousand blacks be taken from Virginia to Texas, the number in Virginia would of course be decreased to that amount. There would be a mere change of location. And should there be a greater demand for slave labor in Texas than in the northern slave States, the prices would be correspondingly higher; and very soon would Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky, be drained of the entire negro population, and become free States, at the same time, adding to the slave territory in the south.

SLAVE TERRITORY WILL BE DECREASING.—ED—THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE WILL BE EFFECTUALLY CHECKED.—THE CONDITION OF THE BLACKS WILL BE MELIORATED, AND SLAVERY ITSELF PROBABLY GRADUALLY ABOLISHED BY THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS TO THE UNION.

The constitution of Texas recognizes the existence of slavery throughout her entire territory, and, if she remains an independent nation, slavery will continue to be protected by law over the whole republic. But should Texas be annexed to the United States, at least one half of her soil will become immediately free. Senator Benton's bill for the annexation of Texas provides for the division of that country into four States, two of which shall remain forever free; and Henry Clay says, (as will presently more fully appear,) that the annexation of Texas will add three free States and only two slave States to our confederacy. Here, then, at the very threshold, annexation will banish slavery from an extent of territory equal to one hundred and fifty thousand square miles.

When Texas was a colony of Mexico, slaves, in small numbers, were not unfrequently carried thither, either directly from Africa, or from the West India Islands—no war vessel being properly stationed to prevent it. Upon shaking off the Mexican yoke, the Texian government adopted stringent measures for the suppressing of this traffic, and a brig, which once sailed under the banner of the African negro stealer, was soon converted into a man-of-war. But although the laws of the young republic have adopted every precaution to strangle the monster, it is feared that her deficiency in naval power renders Texas unable to efficiently defend her numerous

ports from the approach of these piratical vessels. Should she be attached to the United States, her coast would be no less strictly guarded than our own.

It is well known that a southern climate is most congenial to the negro. Our government census tables demonstrate the fact, that blacks residing in the southern States live to a more advanced age than those in the north, and are a hundred fold more exempt from the maladies with which their brethren in the colder climates are afflicted. Texas is more salubrious than any other portion of the south and possesses the finest temperature in America. Upon the supposition, then, that all the blacks from the northern slave States should be transported to Texas, their condition would be much improved. There, they cannot suffer from cold, however meanly clad; and to experience hunger in Texas, without the means of satisfying it, a man must either be disabled, or incorrigibly indolent.

What benefit is to result from confining the blacks to their present northern abodes? Is it imagined that any of the States are about to manumit their slaves? Where are the evidences of such a proceeding? Is the testimony to be found in the increased, and increasing, rigor of the laws of almost every northern slave State? No, no—no such policy is contemplated. Slaveholders either ridicule or become incensed at, the bare mention of liberating their slaves, and turning them loose upon our country. But let them speak for themselves. The distinguished citizen of Kentucky, Hon. Henry Clay, who says he is the owner of fifty slaves, may be presumed to entertain the same views held by the great mass of his brother slaveholders; and hear what he says.

HENRY CLAY'S OPINION UPON THE SUBJECT OF ABOLISHING SLAVERY.

In his celebrated address to Mr. Mendenhall, after referring to some of the effects of abolishing slavery, Mr. Clay goes on to remark:—[See Greeley's life and speeches of Clay, vol. 2, page 505.]

"A contest would inevitably ensue between the two races; civil war, carnage, pillage, conflagration, devastation, and the ultimate extermination or expulsion of the blacks. Nothing is more certain. And are not these evils far greater than the mild and continually improving state of slavery which exists in this country? I say continually improving; for it is this gratifying progress in the amelioration of the condition of the slaves has been checked in some of the States the responsibility must attach to the unfortunate agitation of the subject of abolition."

And again, Mr. Clay says in his speech on abolition petitions, delivered in the Senate, February 7, 1839, and which may be found in the work just quoted, vol. 2, page 412, that,

"If I had been a citizen of Pennsylvania, when Franklin's plan [for gradual emancipation] was adopted, I should have voted for it, because by no possibility could the black race ever acquire the ascendancy in that State. But if I had been then, or were now, a citizen of any of the planting States—the southern, or south-western States—I should have opposed, and would continue to oppose, any scheme whatever of emancipation, gradual or immediate, because of the danger of an ascendancy of the black race, or of a civil contest which might terminate in the extinction of one race or the other."

Here, we have the evidence of the Hon. Henry Clay showing that he regards the abolition of slavery; either gradual or immediate, and throwing the slaves upon our own country as the greatest curse that could befall our land.

In Texas, the slave will occupy a country adjoining one in which no distinction is made in respect to color. In Mexico all shades of complexion are on an equality—the black, the mulatto, the quadroon and the white all enjoy the same privileges. In that government there are five colored to one white man. It is a curious fact that on Galveston Island, in 1837, among some five hundred prisoners taken at the battle of San Jacinto, not one white man was to be found.

Mexico being possessed of such a population and institutions, it is not natural to suppose that the negroes of Texas would seek an asylum in that country, if permitted by their masters? And the all powerful objection to manumission which prevails in the United States, not existing in Texas, it is not to be presumed that hundreds of philanthropic owners would liberate their blacks and send them across the border? We daily hear of persons willing to manumit, provided their servants are sent out of the country. The colored man is unwilling to go to the home of his forefathers; and if he was, means are deficient to send him to Africa. But when once in Texas, this difficulty no longer exists. There, the slave may receive his freedom one week, and in the next, occupy a land where the laws, and (what is more potent) public opinion place him on a level with the white.

The most powerful objection to the extinguishment of slavery in the United States would lose its potency in Texas; and it is by no means visionary to imagine that annexation may at some future day prove the means of abolishing slavery throughout North America. In the boundless territory of Mexico and Central America is to be found the only secure retreat for the posterity of the African. But exclude Texas from the Union, and you forever bar the door to their passage into Mexico.

Many northerners are jealous of the political power of the South. That portion of our confederacy possesses nothing like the weight of the north. The territories of Iowa and Wisconsin are about being admitted into the Union, which will add still further to our preponderance. Besides, the stupendous territory of Oregon is ours, and the day is not very remote when her soil will add several new States to our glorious constellation, and all of them will be free. This will bear down the balance immensely on the side of the north. But upon the authority of Henry Clay, and agreeably to the provisions of Senator Benton's bill, the annexation of Texas will not add to the relative political power of the South.